

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE AD HOC**  
**MENTAL HEALTH TREATMENT COMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., notice is hereby given to the public that an Ad Hoc Committee of the County Board of Supervisors met regarding mental health treatment on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room, Sophie Beaumont Building, 111 N. Jefferson Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Present:** Chair Guy Zima, Security Lieutenant Phil Steffen, Security Lieutenant Scott Brisbane, Behavioral Health Manager Ian Agar, Citizen Representative Pat La Violette, JOSHUA Representative Cheryl Weber, Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, District Attorney David Lasee, Hospital Administrator Luke Schubert, Judge Zuidmulder

**Excused:** Sheriff Gossage, Vice Chair Erik Hoyer

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**I. Call meeting to order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Guy Zima at 12:07 pm.

**II. Approve/modify agenda.**

**Motion made by Phil Steffen, seconded by David Lasee to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**III. Approve/Modify Minutes of November 30, 2016.**

**Motion made by David Lasee, seconded by Phil Steffen to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**1. Report re: Sequential Intercept Mapping.**

Human Services Director Erik Pritzl informed that he has met with Martha Arndt who is in charge of a large grant through the American Foundation for Counseling Services. The sequential intercept mapping revealed a large number of committees and crossover of members that are all working on the same or similar issues. The process of mapping all of these groups has been started by Arndt and she is working on a spreadsheet that details every committee including what the committee is working on, what the purpose is, the membership, the meeting schedule, the chair of the committee, etc. The goal is to get the number of groups working on similar issues down to a more management number. JOSHUA representative Cheryl Weber added that all of this information will be available online when it is complete. Behavioral Health Manager Ian Agar said the intention of what Arndt is doing is to identify where there is duplication and then collapse the number of committees.

Pritzl recalled the sequential intercept mapping also revealed the need for safe and stable housing for those with mental health issues. A resolution for approval of funds for a study on this will be considered by the full County Board at this evening's Board meeting. Pritzl provided a handout, a copy of which is attached, setting forth the proposal but noted that it is still in draft form. He has met with people that actually commission studies for ideas and input and has a list of evaluators to look into.

Chair Zima was of the impression that we would try to hire someone who would take direction from the staff to put this together in a short timeframe. He hopes to be able to come forward with something to present to the County Board on this by mid-year or sooner, but he does not feel the study should cost the full \$75,000 that is in the resolution. The Human Services Committee pledged that if this group came up with a proposal that made sense, they would support it. Zima noted that funds for the study would have to come from the general fund which would require a 2/3 vote of the County Board. He is hopeful that the endorsement of the Human Services Committee along with the power houses on this committee will help move this forward. He does not want feet to drag or for this group to look irresponsible. Zima noted that this group has not done anything without the Board's approval and no money has been wasted. He continued that his goal from day one was to get people out of the jail and into mental health services and transitional housing is a key part. He feels we need to be aggressive in talking about a long-term mental health facility where people can be treated on a longer term basis and he noted that the County used to have a facility like this. He would like to see people be evaluated and if it is determined that their living conditions are such that they become at risk when they leave us, this is where the transitional housing would be useful and valuable. The goal is to keep as many mentally ill people out of jail as possible and provide the services they need.

Pritzl mentioned the timeline for a study and said he asked UWGB if a 3 – 6 month timeframe was realistic. Zima said that this should not take that long. He said it seemed the study could be done in 30 – 60 days, but Pritzl said that nobody ever mentioned having this done in 30 - 60 days.

Judge Zuidmulder said the question to him is what the demonstrable needs that could be outlined are in a small micro sense now. He understands the study and the cosmic needs, but he knows that there are people in the jail that would be better served if there was safe and stable housing available. He continued that the treatment court case managers have advised him that on average there are 5 – 6 people every week who are in a circumstance where they do not have safe and stable housing. These people are in things like alcoholic settings, drug abuse settings or criminal settings that are counterproductive to their treatment. Judge Zuidmulder feels the need is there and he is willing to advocate for it, but he would like the Sheriff's Department to join in and say how many people they have that would benefit and also for Human Services to say how many people this could serve. This would be an in between circumstance and would not preclude going forward with the study; it would allow for addressing needs that continue to keep accumulating. Pat La Violette feels this makes a lot of sense and would be a concrete way of demonstrating to others that this would be helpful.

Judge Zuidmulder continued that the community model we should look at is meeting with those people in the community that have multiple rental units and explain to them what we are trying to do, and ask them to commit to the County a monthly number of apartments that the County will furnish and lease, and then the County will put people in those units that are under our supervision and control. The owners would not have to worry about evicting people or receiving rent because if there are any problems the people would be removed from the premises. This would avoid all of the issue of the county owning something or getting a vendor or other things that take a long time to get in place. Judge Zuidmulder would like this group to agree that this is something we can start working on right away and he could be an advocate for this.

Weber informed that NEWCAP is now providing housing through their \$500,000 grant for vulnerable people. Judge Zuidmulder said that this program is like so many others where there are so many criterions that it eliminates so many people who need help. For instance, if you are in jail, you are not considered homeless. Weber feels the needs assessment should still be done. Pritzl said the study and the program Judge Zuidmulder is talking about are two separate issues. He likes the idea of working with landlords and feels it would be a good pilot program. He feels hearing the concerns of the landlords and then working to eliminate or reduce those concerns would be a good place to start. Judge Zuidmulder noted that if the people would be treatment court participants they would have a case manager. If the landlords call with issues, the courts will be on it immediately.

Zima asked Judge Zuidmulder how these people would be supervised. Judge Zuidmulder responded that there are 80 people in the treatment courts, each of whom have a case manager who is responsible for them doing their jobs, doing their community service and going to their mental health treatments. The people in the housing would be home visited by a probation agent and a case manager once or twice a week and, in addition, the neighbors would have contact information for the case manager and probation agent. He would tell these people that the housing is a privilege just like anything else and if they abuse it, they lose the privilege. Judge Zuidmulder feels when it is explained to people that they are personally accountable, there is a high success rate of people getting the message.

Judge Zuidmulder continued that he would also like to talk to the jail to see what number of people they feel could be served by something like he is talking about. He would be willing to work with the jail and the Court Commissioners so as a condition of bail they can be sent to day report and live in this housing. If there would be any problems, the people would just be sent back to jail. He added that all of the participants of the mental health court are flagged in the GBPD computer system, so if there is an issue, the police officers know that they should call the case manager and probation agent right away.

District Attorney David Lasee said he likes the idea of doing this as a pilot program, but also moving forward with the study. Judge Zuidmulder's proposal sounds wonderful for a small group of people, but Lasee feels the costs would be significant. He feels a feasibility or needs study is important, but agrees that there are a handful of target population that the housing Judge Zuidmulder is talking about could benefit right now. There are some designated resources through the treatment courts that could possibly be used for this and he also said that there could be some case management available through mental health for a few people from the jail.

Security Lieutenant Phil Steffen feels this would be a good place to start building statistics. He also noted that moving forward tweaks and modifications could be made that will help with the longer term proposals.

Zima asked what is expected to be accomplished with a long-term study as he feels we already know there is a need. Lasee responded that it is not known how many people would fall into this model or what the cost would be nor the feasibility of putting this together. Another reason to do the study is to investigate what is being done in other counties because there may be other more cost-effective programs out there. Zima feels we just need to identify the potential population and how to deal with it. He would like to see a longer term treatment center and his vision includes a large facility of small apartments where people with similar issues can share with each other and help keep each other on track and then have people on site to provide additional services and some supervision. Lasee said another reason to move forward with the study is to find out what red tape would need to be handled and what the costs would be and he noted that residential facilities are very expensive.

Judge Zuidmulder does not want to get ahead of ourselves and feels the study has to include what the population is that we would be trying to serve and how extensive the service that is being offered is and if the service is consistent with the law because the law says that people have to be in the least restrictive setting. He feels this is complicated and cautioned that a community that Zima is suggesting cannot be launched into the kind of proposal he is suggesting unless it is building slowly until there is confidence that the facility is worth the risk and money. We can do everything we can to advocate for this, but if there is not the political will and the community support to stand behind this, it will not be successful. Judge Zuidmulder said everything we are talking about here entails political risk so that risk has to be absolutely minimized so it is mostly positive to build community support. He agrees that something is needed, but the reality is that it has to be done incrementally and in the most prudent political way possible to be sure we do not lose anyone along the way.

Weber spoke in favor of the study to find out what is working in other areas so we do not have to reinvent the wheel and she would like to see a consultant move forward so we can start figuring this all out.

**Motion made by Judge Zuidmulder, seconded by Pat La Violette to adopt a proposal that a study be conducted and that a subcommittee be formed with representation of the DA's Office, Sheriff's Department, Treatment Courts and Human Services to develop a pilot program to look at housing for a small identified group. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Zima said on a positive note, in the course of his campaigning for the last election, this topic came up at a lot of residences and he found a lot of support for something like this. When talking about treating people who are mentally ill in a facility rather than in the jail, he got nothing but positive feedback. He let people know of the efforts of this committee to get things up and running. Now he is concerned that we are not up and running as much as we should be, but he does feel that the public is generally supportive, although the public does not necessarily want something like this in their backyards. He felt that putting a facility somewhere out near the CTC may be beneficial. Zima wants results on this and wants the foot dragging to stop. He cannot put up with this anymore. La Violette said the pilot would address this. Zima was concerned about where this pilot program would occur. Judge Zuidmulder said he would like to approach people who own multiple units in the city and ask them as part of their commitment to the community if they would rent several units to the County that are on a bus line that could house people under close supervision. The units would be paid for every month by the County, whether they are occupied or not. Zima reiterated he wants the foot dragging to stop and he feels that discussions in this committee go on and on and on.

Judge Zuidmulder said he is not in favor of putting everyone who needs services in one location. He feels this is community problem and believes the overall community should bare its fair share of the good and the bad in the community. We should attempt to put these people in areas they feel comfortable in such as where they went to school and where their friends and families are. We should not try to isolate them somewhere. Zima feels most of the people we are talking about are lost souls and not concerned about where their old friends are. They are in a different world and a different ball game. He is more concerned about safety and having them where someone can look out for them.

Pritzl said there are different ideas of what people want and don't want and he suggested we ask the community what they want. JOSHUA does forums and listening sessions and he suggested this committee may want to entertain doing something like that. Judge Zuidmulder responded that it is gestation period and the complaint that he and Zima have are how long this is all taking. He feels that his time here is being wasted because he has said many times that we know we have people

who need it and the jail agrees with him, but things are not getting done. He does not want to waste any more time here and said if the committee does not want to do a pilot program he will go do it himself. Pritzl responded that he never, ever said he was opposed to a pilot. He said his time is also valuable as is the time if everyone else on this committee.

2. **Discussion, review and possible action: Request that Brown County review its past and present mental health services and develop a more comprehensive plan to treat both short and long-term mental health patients including but not limited to 1) alcohol and drug abuse detox and treatment; and 2) children, adolescent and adult mental health treatment.**
3. **Discussion, review and possible action: Request that the Human Services Director and Brown County Sheriff work together to develop a plan to provide a treatment plan for prisoners who presently make up a third of our jail population.**

Zima informed there are very few long-term mental health facilities left in Wisconsin. The County spends about \$1.5 million dollars sending people to Trempealeau County for treatment and he feels that money could go a long way in Brown County to expand mental health services here. In addition, a similar amount is spent sending people to Winnebago County for treatment and on rare occasions County residents are sent to Mendota for treatment. Zima said in the past there was a longer term facility in Brown County and he feels it should be reestablished. He feels that some of the jail people could be better served in a longer term facility and the model he keeps seeing is as he described earlier with a large facility where people can stay who need the security and safety as well as receive some services right on site. He feels the window for this is short because the time to expand the jail is growing near. Zima feels if we do not get a piece of money for mental health development and some transitional housing there is no question the jail will need to be expanded sooner rather than later. He feels if the community knew what was being spent sending people out of the County for treatment this would get a lot of support. Zima would like to see some of the capital money go to the jail and some to transitional housing which is a key aspect to mental health treatment.

Judge Zuidmulder said the people who are being sent to Trempealeau County are a population who, as a judge, he has determined are a danger to themselves or others and will never be in the jail. He feels that gathering the cost of out of County placements for the last 3 years, compared to the costs to create a structure and staffing within Brown County is necessary. He said the populations cannot be mixed. Zima reiterated that the window of opportunity to get money for this is in conjunction with the jail. He feels the community will buy into this idea based on what he heard while out campaigning. He did not find anyone who fought this idea and feels that the opportunity will come in conjunction with jail expansion.

Pritzl said in terms of long-term facilities in the State of Wisconsin, most people talk about Trempealeau County which is a long-term option. Perhaps how Trempealeau is licensed and what their capacity is should be looked at coupled with how many people from Brown County have gone there. He continued that since Willow Creek opened there is no lack of acute psychiatric beds; there are over 100 beds available. Pritzl feels that what is needed is long-term facilities because there is a tremendous lack of long-term care in the state and perhaps what we could do is look at our options and see if it would be prudent to go in a different direction. Judge Zuidmulder said we should also explore what is available to the neighboring counties and the possibility of them contracting with Brown County for services. Steffen added that a lot of surrounding areas are already sending clients here to CBRFs. Zima would really like to get started on doing something so when the bonding for the jail comes; we can bond for a long-term facility at the same time. He wants to be sure that the mental health piece is tied to the jail piece.

**Motion made by Judge Zuidmulder, seconded by Pat La Violette for the Human Services Department to provide an analysis of the last 3 years of out-of-county placements for people who are unable to care for themselves at the next meeting and in addition that the Department provide this committee with information as to what adjacent counties have spent for the same kind of placements within the last 12 months. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Zima would also like staff to develop a timeline as to what it would take to develop a model and justification to have a long-term facility and appropriate transitional housing connected to it to coincide with the new jail. He does not want to see this get too far behind. Judge Zuidmulder said that once this information is gathered, a determination can be made as to what it would cost to build a facility and staff it that could accommodate people from Brown County as well as surrounding counties.

Zima noted that Steffen will be retiring soon and asked him to stay on this committee at least through the end of the year because he feels he is an essential piece of the group and speaks the truth. Steffen appreciated the comment and said he would keep the meeting dates on his calendar and keep in contact. Steffen feels that a lot of good progress has been made with the day report center and detox. There are more things to do and he feels we are moving in that direction. He urged the group to stay positive and keep their eye on the prize. His replacement, Scott Brisbane was introduced as well.

Weber feels we have to have something good to talk about and get down to business and when we have something to present, we can let the media know. She feels that the reason we are not moving on with the building Zima is proposing is because the group is not all in agreement. She would like to see what a study would show and find out what would be most beneficial for the population Zima is talking about.

Judge Zuidmulder said that enough progress has been made to say we are going to look at doing a pilot for identified groups. The next thing will be the study and the third thing will be the advocacy for this facility and it will be based upon the fact that we have identified County expenses that relate to a population that is a danger to themselves or others. These numbers will be provided at the next meeting and we can go from there. Judge Zuidmulder noted that the people who are sent to Trempealeau County do not go there of their own choice; they are sent there by the Court. The same amount of money will be spent on this population whether they are sent to Trempealeau County and treated at a facility of some sort here.

Lasee agreed that he does not know if we are all in agreement to put a 70 unit facility in a neighborhood and that is why we are doing the study. He agrees with doing a pilot in the short term with the population already identified, doing a study with regard to the larger community and then looking at the group that is going to Trempealeau or Mendota because that is a different population. Lasee feels these goals are good ones to move forward with and he sees a path to move forward.

Zima asked for an update on the four initiatives that are already in place. Steffen read an e-mail that Sheriff Gossage received from Family Services regarding the day report center thanking the Sheriff and the jail for working collaboratively with the DRC concepts and staff. DRC staff is currently going into the jail each morning to complete quick screens on the lock up population for potential participants at the DRC and then forwarding information for the afternoon court sessions. Pritzl added that the DRC is serving over 40 people. There are still some kinks to work out with regard to the referral process and acceptance, but they are working through this.

Zima questioned when some outreach will be done with regard to alcohol and drug treatment and he asked how many people have been served at Bellin. Pritzl said the problem with the numbers is that there are people that are going to Bellin who are County funded and others who are not County funded. Pritzl said there have been at least 16 people admitted to Bellin on detoxification holds. Zima feels that outreach has to be part of this and some billboards should be put up advising people that services are available for those who want them. Pritzl said that the 211 information system can provide information to people seeking help and added that a PSA could be done through NEWEye. The admission process was discussed and Weber asked if consideration is being given to contracting with Willow Creek. Pritzl said that they are currently working with Willow Creek on a contract.

*Judge Zuidmulder was excused at 1:21 pm*

*David Lasee was excused at 1:23 pm*

**4. Such other matters as authorized by law.**

The next meeting date was discussed and February 15, 2017 at 12:00 pm was selected.

Mental Health Treatment Committee  
January 18, 2017

Motion made by Phil Steffen, seconded by Erik Pritzl to adjourn at 1:25 pm. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary

# Safe, Stable Housing Study Proposal

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## **Introduction:**

A Sequential Intercept Mapping workshop was conducted in 2016 and a report was generated with recommendations and goals related to mental health and substance abuse services. One of the largest areas of need in order for programs to be successful was the lack in Brown County of safe and stable and housing available for the population receiving mental health services.

There is a belief that access to safe, stable and secure housing could cause a reduction in jail population and could reduce the cost of an expansion of the Brown County Jail. The Human Services Committee and the ad-hoc Mental Health Treatment Committee support a study to assess the current needs, and provide consulting services for the initiation of providing safe, stable and secure housing for those involved with the established treatment courts, people receiving case management through Human Services under a commitment, and people under supervision of Probation and Parole.

## **Study Outline:**

The primary focus is on housing, with some services available. People coming into contact with formal system partners (Treatment Court, Human Services Case Management, Probation and Parole, Jail Liaison) have a gap in safe housing that supports recovery. Through their involvement with these partners, people have access to services that would not be integrated into their housing. Not having access to safe, stable housing is not the same as being homeless.

## **Key Populations Identified:**

- People involved with treatment courts
- People case managed by Community Treatment Center staff members under commitment orders who do not have safe, stable housing
- People under supervision of probation and parole (without housing)

## **Primary Activities:**

- Interview key stakeholders about the specific resource needs. These stakeholders include:
  - Treatment Court Judges
  - Treatment Court Supervisor and Case Managers
  - Brown County Jail Liaison
  - Probation and Parole Supervisors and Case Managers
  - Brown County Community Treatment Program Case Managers
  - Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition Leadership
  - Consumers needing services

- Identify the specific population(s) to be served, and the number of people to be served. In the populations discussed by the committee, there is likely overlap and could contribute to duplicate counts.
- Search and Review Existing Models
- Search and Review Funding Options (Grants)

*Resource Features:*

Some key elements to this gap have been identified and include a resource that is:

- Flexible and Affordable
- Accessible to case managers who might be involved
- People are not disqualified due to criminal convictions or mental health status
- Sliding Fee potentially to \$0
- Longer stay
- Safe and supervised
- Creative

*Concerns That Have to be Addressed:*

- Contracting for housing—an agreement between provider and resident
- Mixing populations—treatment court involved people and others who are not involved with treatment courts. This could create different expectations and responses.
- Don't want to miss populations that need services, but recognize the transient nature of some people.
- Location of housing resources, and a scattered site or concentrated model.

Throughout this process, Brown County needs to emphasize and demonstrate that partnership and collaboration is important. This includes working with existing resources and stakeholders active in the community, and without disrupting the work and priorities established related to housing issues in the community.